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Czechoslovakia: Gustav Husak, chief of the autonomous Slovak Communist Party, has laid down a tough line designed to restore order and discipline.

Husak got the Slovak party central committee to adopt a resolution on 12 March asserting the exclusive political primacy of the party and calling for an end to dissidence under the threat of loss of jobs and party membership. He called the present situation "anarchy" and said that ultraliberals as well as conservatives must be brought under control or silenced. He severely criticized the free-wheeling news media and made public the ousting, over a month ago, of his ideological chief for failure to accept the conservative view on the reason for the Soviet invasion, and because of policy disagreements on other questions.

Husak seems to have strengthened his grip on the top echelons of the party. He added a number of his own people to the policy-making party presidium and the secretariat, which acts as the day-to-day executive.

Husak's counterpart, hard-line Czech party leader Lubomir Strougal, also addressed the committee. He agreed fully with Husak, and noted that Slovakia was far ahead of Bohemia and Moravia in consolidating the party's hold. He urged the constructive use of state power as leverage to regain dominance for the party. Strougal, like Husak, emphasized that normalization of party life would not be possible unless good relations with the Soviets were restored.

As long as the chiefs of the two constituent parties hold such views, Dubcek and his predominantly liberal and moderate supporters in the national leadership will find it difficult to accomplish planned reforms.

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